(b) whether it is also a fact that precious foreign exchange can also be saved by way of these technologies, once developed as products, as import substitutes, and if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) A number of technologies developed by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have already been transferred to Indian Industry and are being manufactured by the industry, to meet the demands of various agencies and organisations, besides ISRO's own requirements for its satelites and launch vehicle programmes. In adition, ISRO also provides technical consultancy support to Indian Industry to upgrade their technologies. The Indian industry work very closely with SRO, both for ISRO's purposes as well as their own needs.

Prosecution of Doctors under C.E.A.

@4042-A. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Indian Medical Association have objected to the cases of doctors being prosecuted and fined by District/State Consumer Councils under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986; and

(b) if so, what are the objections and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Government has received a representation from the Indian Medical Association wherein they have raised the following objections regarding applicability of Consumer Protection Act to the medical profession ;

(i) that medical profession can not be equated with any trade/selling commodity.

(ii) medical profession comes under 'contract for personal services' under section 2(1) (0) of the Act and therefore, exempted from the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

(iii) There is specific agency namely Medical Council of India and State Medical Council which have Statutory powers to award punishment for alledged misconduct and negligence against medical professionals.

All the services which are hired for a consideration are covered under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in a judgement has held that contract of personal services stems from master-servant relationship. The relation between a patient and the professional doctors does not come within that category. Further Consumer Protection Act, only provides for additional remedy to the consumers for the redressal of their grievances against services which are hired for a consideration. It is for the consumer to decide the forum where he wants to seek redress

Reservation for SC/ST in Public Sector undertakings

@@4042-B SHRI KARMA TOPDEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reservation for SC/ST in recruitments of posts would remain applicable in all the public sector undertakings after privatisation under Government's liberal policy;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to implement the same;

(c) whether any amendment is proposed to be made accordingly in the statute; and

(d) if not, what is Government's attitude towards safeguarding the interest of SC/ST regarding this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) to (d) No change is contemplated in the existing policy of reservation for SCs/STs in Public Sector Enterprises.

Right to Work

@/a @4042-C SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether right to work and employment guarantee schemes have been droped by Government as Reported in the Economic Times of 19th February, 1992 due to financial and other constraints; and

@Previously Unstarred Question 3556, transferred from the 25th March, 1922.

@@Previously Unstarred Question 4357 transferred from the 27th March, 1992.

@@@Previously Unstarred Question 3421 transferred from the 24th March, 1992.